

The Parish Caller September 11, 2020

A Message from Pastor Jay

140TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY - SEPTEMBER 27

While we remain closed to worship in our sanctuary on Sundays, The Cabinet met last night and decided:

On Thursday, September 24, we will record a virtual worship service in celebration of our church's 140th anniversary, with guest speaker The Rev. Dr. William Lyons, UCC Southwest Conference Minister. The virtual worship service will be available to view on Sunday morning, the 27th. Also on Sunday September 27, we will offer an in-person modified worship/fellowship service to be held in our church parking lot with people wearing masks and practicing safe distancing. Bring your umbrella for shade! The time will be 10:00am. The church building will also be open for you to tour. Historical items will be placed on tables in Perkins Hall for you to come through and see. It is also a chance to see the refurbished floor in Perkins Hall.

Based on the wishes of those present on September 27, a World Communion Sunday parking lot worship may be held on October 4th, also at 10:00am. More details to follow as that date approaches.

This Sunday's virtual service features Tom and Brian with musical selections, and JJ visually presenting the story of Rahab in Joshua chapter 2. In order not to startle you, I should mention he is hanging upside down by a rope for the children's time.

Stay safe and give and receive grace,

Jay

Bulletin

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2020

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Prelude: "All Are Welcome" by Marty Haugen

Brian Moore

Call to Worship (Romans 12) Tom
Macy

L: Owe no one anything, except to love one another

P: For the one who loves has fulfilled the law.

L: Love does no wrong to a neighbor;

P: Therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

L: Live into God's ways of love, justice, and peace;

ALL: Let us worship Christ, who leads us into light. Amen.

Unison Opening Prayer
PastorJay

God of the past, accept the people we have been and the baggage we drag behind us.

God of the present, accept the people we are now and the potential that lies within us.

God of the future, accept the people we could be and by your Spirit transform us. May you help us deal with all that life brings our way. And may you give us grace and strength as we worship you today. Amen.

Hymn: "I Will Trust in the Lord" by Jeffre Radford New Century Hymnal #416

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

A Time for Children of All Ages

JJ

Scripture Reading: Joshua 2:1-12

Pastor Jay

*Hymn: "God of Our Life"

New Century Hymnal #366

Scripture Reading: Joshua 2:13-24 Tom Macy

Sermon: "Rahab – Responding to Uncontrollable Circumstances"

Pastor Jay

RESPONDING TO GOD'S GRACE

Anthem: "Be Not Afraid" by Bob Dufford
(Gather Hymnal # 596)

Brian Moore & Tom Macy

Prayer for Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

Tom Macy

O God of the wandering Israelites, refugees in a harsh land, who heard their cries for freedom, comfort, and refuge, Forgive us for having hearts as hard as Pharaoh's, when we resist your calls for care and mercy for those who have fled or are fleeing violence. O God of the Psalmist, who hears the lament of those surrounded by death, destruction, and fear, Give us the strength to embody "the land of the living" where refugees and asylum-seekers can safely begin life anew. O God of the Christ-Child, whose own earthly parents were forced to flee the state-sanctioned violence of Herod, and find safety in a foreign nation, Give us hearts like the people of Egypt to offer not only refuge but welcome to those who arrive at our doorstep in need of safety and

protection. O God who calls us to offer welcome to the stranger, just as we would offer it to Christ, Remind us today and every day that we need not fear what we do not know, but are freed by following your Gospel call to welcome. O God of all people, of all nations and of all the earth, protect this day those in need of safety, put a salve on the souls of those grieving the loss of home, family, loved ones and memories, Give us the conviction to offer welcome, safety, Christian love and a space for new beginnings to refugees and asylum-seekers. Instill in our hearts the courage to love as Jesus taught us, in a world that encourages suspicion, fear and scarcity.

O God of all sojourners in search of refuge, we ask you to create peace in this world so that none of your children live in places endangered by violence and civil unrest. We ask for comfort for all who have been forced to flee their homes, and we ask that those in need of peace and protection find both refuge and welcome. We give you thanks this day for refugees and asylum seekers in our midst, and for the blessings they bring to our families, churches, communities and nation.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Offering of Ourselves and our Gifts

Doxology "Rejoice, You Pure in Heart" by Edward H. Plumptre
New Century Hymnal #55

**Praise God who rules all worlds, the risen Christ adore,
Praise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God for evermore!
Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks and sing!**

Prayer of Dedication

Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

New Century Hymnal #547

Benediction

Pastor Jay

Postlude: "Wherever You Go" by Barbara Hamm

Brian Moore

Serving the Church

Ministers All the People of the Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Jay Wilcher

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Robert Bradstreet

Worship Leader Tom Macy

Alter Notes Director Melissa Gates

Organist Brian Moore

Bell Choir Director Carole Sue Linson

Moderator Ralph Wagner

Minister of the Building Rev. Bill Linson

Facilities Director Tom Macy

SEPTEMBER MISSION NEWS

Mission Outreach Update:

In August, your donations helped to support our **DACA Fund**. Money from this fund assists our “adopted” DACA student, Franceny, and her two brothers, Francisco and Fernando. We have issued checks from this fund to both Franceny and Francisco to help them pay their college tuition expenses. Fernando has earned a full scholarship to Yavapai College in pursuit of his certification in Construction Management.

This month’s mission emphasis in our denomination’s special offering, “**Neighbors in Need**” (NIN). NIN is the UCC’s annual offering to support ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Through a network of justice advocates, work is accomplished to address such issues as; voting rights, federal budget priorities, immigration, hate crimes, health care, civil liberties, pollution of our natural environment, and Native American ministries. Check donations can be made payable to the church, with the memo line note, NIN.

Throughout the year, we support multiple mission outreach projects. Programs such as those seeking to provide shelter and homes for those who are poor, homeless, and hungry. Programs such as: [1] The Coalition for Compassion and Justice, [2] Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS), [3] Habitat for Humanity and [4] and the Prescott Area Community Cupboard (PACC). From March 18th – September 4th, PACC helped to provide food for 8,230 people. None of this would be possible without the support you provide through the donation of money and time.

As we do each month, volunteers will be providing an evening meal to the women and children sheltered at PASS. Our next PASS meal will be delivered on Wednesday, September 16th. If you can help provide a main dish or dessert, please contact Patty Gard at 928-460-3042 or at pggard@cableone.net. Carmen Frederic, PASS Executive Director, has extended the following invitation to our church family: -- Please join us for our 5th Annual Open House on Wednesday, October 28th from 1:00-4:00 P.M. to see the finished construction to the dorm. PASS is located at 336 N. Rush Street, Prescott, AZ 86301.

Both Angela Imbierowicz (PACC team captain) and Patty Gard (PASS team coordinator) extend their thanks to donors and volunteers who make our mission outreach possible.

As always, your mission outreach team (Becky & Bill Bryant, Helaine Berman, Patty Gard, Linda Moore, Staci Robbins, and Gary Gard, chairperson) thank all of you for remembering that we are blessed to be a blessing (Genesis 12:2).

JOSHUA SERMON SERIES

Preaching Through Joshua

- Sept 6 - Joshua 1 - "Crossing Over"
Sept 13 - Joshua 2 - Dealing with Uncontrollable Circumstances
Sept. 20 - Joshua 3-4 - "We Have Not Passed This Way Before"
Sept 27 - 140th Anniversary - Rev. Bill Lyons Preaching
Oct. 4 - Joshua 5 - "Spiritual Preparation"
Oct. 11 - Joshua 6 - "When God Doesn't Make Sense"
Oct. 18 - Joshua 7,8,9 - "Deceiving Ourselves"
Oct. 25 - Joshua 10 - "Choosing to be on God's Side"
Nov. 1 - Joshua 13-19 - "Saint Caleb"
Nov. 8 - Joshua 20 - "Finding Refuge"
Nov. 15 - Joshua 22 - "Opportunities & Obstacles in Times of Change"
Nov. 22 - Joshua 23-24 - "The Importance of Conviction"

[Text Link](#)

ADVENT WORSHIP SERIES THE PROBLEM WITH LIGHT/DARK AESTHETICS

DARK IS GOOD & GODLY

- Nov. 29 - Dark is Good & Godly - "The Via Negativa"
Dec. 6 - Dark is Good & Godly - "Dealing With White Fragility"
Dec. 13 - Dark is Good & Godly - "Light Burns & Blinds"
Dec. 20 - Dark is Good & Godly - "Beyond White Jesus"

[Text Link](#)

Treasurer's Report

8/31/2020

So much has changed since the beginning of the year, and our financial expectations and activities are no exception. At this point in the year (end of August), our budget as approved in January had anticipated that our expenses would now be in excess of \$140,000. In actuality, expenses to-date are \$118,000. Much of this reduced spending is due to the church being closed and because many of our parishioners have stepped up to volunteer for tasks previously done by paid staff. Together we are making this work!

As for income, total receipts to-date are more than \$125,000! Congregational giving remains on target. (THANK YOU!) The loss of income from facility use by outside groups is more than offset by the reduced expenses. The net income to-date is more than \$7,000. Our checking account has a healthy balance in excess of \$30,000.

Just a note about our investments: not surprising, the value did take a large loss in February and March (-\$16,000) but the market bounced back, and that loss is now a

SEPTEMBER 27 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH

FCC History

From “Meeting The Four O’Clock Train”
by Dixon Fagerberg, Jr.

CHURCHES. Although it had a population
of only about 5,000 circa 1920, Prescott
had its full share of the country’s typical
religious denominations.....

In most Prescott families, it was firmly
established that children were to attend
Sunday School, and my sisters and I
certainly did.....

My own affiliation, from kindergarten
age through high school, was the
Congregational Church.....

The Sunday School at our church was a
most estimable institution. It was well
staffed and had a complete set of age-
group classes ranging from toddlers (the
“Sunbeams”) to the Men’s Advanced
Bible Class. Most Memorable of my own
Sunday School teachers were Mr.
Emerson, Hilliard Brooke and Dr.
Clarence E. Yount. The program each
Sunday morning followed a well
established pattern. First the entire
membership would meet as one group
for a song or songs and a brief
prayer. Then each class would meet in
separate sessions for Bible study and
instruction. Finally, the individual classes
would reassemble and recite the Bible
verse they had learned that day.

Perfect Sunday School attendance was
celebrated one Sunday of each year. It
was called Rally Day. Different badges or
buttons were emblems signifying the
number of years of perfect
attendance. Quite a number earned five-
year badges. Only five or six received

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH DURING CORONAVIRUS!

- Online – go to our
website: www.fccprescott.org
and look for the tab on
the front page
- You can set up regular,
ongoing giving or one-
time giving.
- Use your credit card and
get some points!
- Your bank may have free
online bill pay. You find
the tab on your online
account, fill in the details
of the check as you would
a regular check, and the
bank mail will mail it for
you! You can set up a
one-time check or
recurring scheduled
check amount.
- Mail a check out to the
church and mail it to 216
East Gurley Street,
Prescott, AZ 86301

The church office is closed
going forward, however,
someone will pick up the mail
on a daily basis to place
checks into the safe.

[Visit our website](#)

[Watch Services
Here](#)

ten-year buttons. Next came the heavyweights. One of these, for say, seventeen years of perfect attendance, was Morris Payne. Outranking even him, for say, twenty-three years of being there every Sunday, was Emma Riebeling. Outdoing them all, and representing over thirty years of regular attendance was the Sunday School Superintendent. The champion! M.B. Hazeltine.



Celebrating YOU!!!

Anniversaries

WAGNER, Ralph & Susan Lemons	09/05
GILGES, Ralph & Cheryl	09/09
BRYANT, Bill & Becky	09/22
JAQUETTE, Julie & Sandra Johns	09/24
FONE, DJ & Marita Callaway	09/28

Birthdays

BEESON, Al	08/03
BRUHN, Mary	08/03
PREBLE, Murl	08/08
CHRISTOPHER, Jim	08/10
IMBIEROWICZ, Angela	08/11
OSBORN, Jane	08/12
WALKER, Brent	08/18
JONES, Tarah	08/22
GILGES, Cheryl	08/27
SANDSTROM, Paul	08/30
BROUSSARD, Suzanne	09/06
DINSMAN, Christy	09/07
MCCOLLOUGH, Dennis	09/09
MACY, Tom	09/14
MATSUMOTO, Yoichi	09/18
RELTH, Arlene	09/22
WILSON, John	09/28
KAUL, Linda	09/29